

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image formation apparatus for forming images based on input image data, comprising:

an automatic adjustment unit for performing automatic adjustment of said image formation apparatus;

a job queuing unit for queuing image formation jobs;

a counting unit for counting the number of image formation pages from the previous automatic adjustment, for each automatic adjustment item which said automatic adjustment unit performs;

a determining unit for determining whether or not the number of image formation pages at which said automatic adjustment is to be performed by said automatic adjustment unit will be reached during execution of said image formation job queued by said job queuing unit, based on the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit and said image formation job queued by said job queuing unit; and

a control unit wherein, in the event that said determining unit determines that the number of image formation pages at which said automatic adjustment is to be performed by said automatic adjustment unit will be reached during execution of said image formation job queued by said job queuing unit, automatic adjustment is performed by said

automatic adjustment unit before starting executing of said image formation job queued by said job queuing unit even though the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit has not reached the number at which said automatic adjustment is to be performed by said automatic adjustment unit.

2. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said determining unit determines whether or not the number of image formation pages at which said automatic adjustment is to be performed by said automatic adjustment unit will be reached during execution of said image formation job queued by said job queuing unit, by determining whether or not the sum of the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit and the number of image formation pages of the image formation job queued by said job queuing unit is greater than the number of image formation pages at which said automatic adjustment is to be performed.

3. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said automatic adjustment to be performed by said automatic adjustment unit includes at least one of density adjustment and registration adjustment.

4. An image formation apparatus for forming images based on input image data, comprising:

an automatic adjustment unit for performing automatic adjustment of said image formation apparatus;

a counting unit for counting the number of image formation pages from the previous automatic adjustment, for each automatic adjustment item which said automatic adjustment unit performs;

a control unit for effecting automatic adjustment by an automatic adjustment unit, in response to the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit reaching a first threshold value;

a setting unit for setting a second threshold value smaller than said first threshold value; and

a determining unit for determining whether or not the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit have reached said second threshold value set by said setting unit before starting execution of the next image formation job;

wherein, in the event that said determining unit determines that the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit have reached said second threshold value, said control unit effects automatic adjustment by said automatic adjustment unit before starting executing of the next image formation job even though the number of image

formation pages counted by said counting unit has not reached said first threshold value.

5. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said second threshold value is a user-settable value.

6. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said second threshold value is automatically determined based on image formation job contents executed within a predetermined period or within a predetermined number of times of image formation jobs.

7. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said image formation job contents are the average number of image formation sheets per job within a predetermined period or within a predetermined number of times of image formation jobs.

8. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said image formation job contents are a video count value counted within a predetermined period or within a predetermined number of times of image formation jobs.

9. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said automatic adjustment to be performed by said

automatic adjustment unit includes at least one of density adjustment and registration adjustment.

10. An image formation apparatus for forming images based on input image data, comprising:

- an automatic adjustment unit for performing automatic adjustment of said image formation apparatus;

- a counting unit for counting the number of image formation pages from the previous automatic adjustment, for each automatic adjustment item which said automatic adjustment unit performs;

- a control unit for effecting automatic adjustment by an automatic adjustment unit, in response to the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit reaching a first threshold value;

- a setting unit for setting a second threshold value smaller than said first threshold value; and

- a determining unit for determining, at the time of an interruption of an image formation job, whether or not the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit have reached said second threshold value set by said setting unit;

wherein, in the event that said determining unit determines that the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit have reached said second threshold

value, said control unit effects automatic adjustment by said automatic adjustment unit before resuming from the interruption of the image formation job even though the number of image formation pages counted by said counting unit has not reached said first threshold value.

11. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said second threshold value is a user-settable value.

12. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said second threshold value is automatically determined based on image formation job contents executed within a predetermined period or within a predetermined number of times of image formation jobs.

13. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said image formation job contents are the average number of image formation sheets per job within a predetermined period or within a predetermined number of times of image formation jobs.

14. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said image formation job contents are a video count value counted within a predetermined period or within a predetermined number of times of image formation jobs.

15. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said automatic adjustment to be performed by said automatic adjustment unit includes at least one of density adjustment and registration adjustment.

16. An image formation apparatus for forming images based on input image data, comprising:

an acquiring unit for acquiring indicators relating to the time for performing the next maintenance for predetermined maintenance items; and

a display unit for displaying indicators acquired by said acquiring unit for each maintenance item, along with the amount of time required for the maintenance.

17. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said display unit displays maintenance items in the order of the earliest next maintenance, based on said acquired indicators.

18. An image formation apparatus for forming images based on input image data, comprising:

an acquiring unit for acquiring indicators relating to the time for performing the next maintenance for predetermined maintenance items; and

a display unit for displaying indicators acquired by said acquiring unit for each maintenance item;

wherein said acquiring unit comprises

a counting unit for counting the number of image formation sheets from the point that the previous maintenance ended for each maintenance item, and

a calculating unit for calculating the number of remaining image formation sheets to the next maintenance, based on said counted number of image formation sheets,

whereby said calculated number of remaining image formation sheets is acquired as said indicator.

19. An image formation apparatus for forming images based on input image data, comprising:

an acquiring unit for acquiring indicators relating to the time for performing the next maintenance for predetermined maintenance items;

a display unit for displaying indicators acquired by said acquiring unit for each maintenance item;

a selecting unit for selecting said maintenance items based on the indicators displayed for each of said maintenance items; and

a control unit for controlling the start of maintenance corresponding to a selected maintenance item.



20. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said selecting unit is used to make selections from a maintenance item screen displayed on said display unit.

21. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein, in the event that maintenance corresponding to said selected maintenance item has begun, the indicator corresponding to said maintenance item is set to an initial value.

22. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said selecting unit is capable of selecting a plurality of displayed maintenance items at the same time, and in the event that a plurality of displayed maintenance items are selected at the same time, said control unit controls the start of maintenance corresponding to said selected plurality of displayed maintenance items.

23. An image formation apparatus for forming images based on input image data, comprising:

an acquiring unit for acquiring indicators relating to the time for performing the next maintenance for predetermined maintenance items;

a display unit for displaying indicators acquired by said acquiring unit for each maintenance item;

a transmission unit for transmitting indicators acquired for each of said maintenance items to other apparatuses;

a reception unit for receiving maintenance items selected by said other apparatuses based on said transmitted indicators; and

a control unit for controlling the start of maintenance corresponding to said received maintenance items.

24. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said other apparatus is another image formation apparatus connected via a network.

25. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said other apparatus is a server device connected via a network.

26. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said maintenance items include adjustment of subject members, cleaning, replacement of expendables, and supplying.

27. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said indicator is the number of remaining sheets obtained by subtracting the number of sheets upon which image formation has been formed from a predetermined

threshold value, output of a sensor for detecting a predetermined state, or time obtained by subtracting elapsed time from a set time.